

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated January 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated November 2, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 57 and 60 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-56 (Cancelled).

Claim 57 (Currently Amended). A printing information distribution apparatus which is adapted to be connected to information terminals and printers located in different places, through a network, the apparatus comprising:

5 user information storage means for storing user information regarding information terminals which are permitted to access the printing information distributing apparatus;

printing reservation information storage means for storing printing reservation information;

10 authenticating means for acquiring, when one of the information terminals accesses the printing information distributing apparatus through the network, identification information indicating a user of the one of the information

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated January 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated November 2, 2006

terminals accessing the printing information distribution
15 apparatus, and for performing authentication of the acquired
identification information with reference to the user information
storage means;

printing reservation means for [[(I)]] (i) transmitting a
printing reservation screen image for use in reservation for
20 printing desired printing information to the information
terminal, and for use in selection of a print medium by a user,
when the authenticating means determines that the acquired
identification information is stored in the user information
storage means, (ii) receiving printing reservation information of
25 the desired printing information from said one of the information
terminals, the printing reservation information including a name
of the desired printing information, a printing medium type
indicating a type of medium for printing, [[and]] a number of
prints, and the print medium selected by and user, and (iii)
30 storing the received printing reservation information and the
acquired identification information in the printing reservation
information storage means, in association with the received
printing reservation information and the acquired identification
information;

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated January 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated November 2, 2006

35 printer authenticating means for authenticating one of the
printers, when said one of the printers accesses the printing
information distributing apparatus through the network;

identification information fetching means for fetching
identification information which indicates a user of the one of
40 the information terminals accessing the printing information
distribution apparatus and is transmitted from said one of the
printers through the network when the printer authenticating
means authenticates said one of the printers;

printing information generating means for [[I]] (i)
45 retrieving from the printing reservation information storage
means the stored printing reservation information based on the
identification information fetched by the identification
information fetching means, (ii) reading the printing reservation
information associated with the fetched identification
50 information from the printing reservation information storage
means, and (iii) generating printing information based on the
read printing reservation information; and

printing information transmitting means for transmitting,
through the network, the printing information generated by the
55 printing information generating means to said one of the printers
which accesses the printing information distribution apparatus,

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated January 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated November 2, 2006

and causing said one of the printers to print out the desired printing information.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 57, wherein the printing information transmitting means transmits charge information indicating a printing charge for the printing information to said one of the printers, and transmits the
5 printing information to said one of the printers when the printing charge is paid for said one of the printers.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 58, wherein each of the printers includes money entry means for receiving each of predetermined kinds of money, and said one of the printers prints
5 out the printing information transmitted by the printing information transmitting means, when money is entered into the money entry means to pay for the charge indicated by the charge information.

Claim 60 (Currently Amended). A printing information distribution apparatus which is adapted to be connected to

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated January 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated November 2, 2006

information terminals and printers located in different places,
through a network, the apparatus comprising:

5 a user information storage device which stores user
information regarding information terminals which are permitted
to access the printing information distributing apparatus;

a printing reservation information storage device which
stores printing reservation information;

10 an authenticating device which acquires, when one of the
information terminals accesses the printing information
distributing apparatus though the network, identification
information indicating a user of the one of the information
terminals accessing the printing information distribution
15 apparatus, and performs authentication of the acquired
identification information with reference to the user information
storage device;

a printing reservation device which ~~[[I]]~~ (i) transmits a
printing reservation screen image for use in reservation for
20 printing desired printing information to the information
terminal, and for use in selection of a print medium by a user,
when the authenticating device determines that the acquired
identification information is stored in the user information
storage means, (ii) receives printing reservation information of

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated January 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated November 2, 2006

25 the desired printing information from said one of the information
terminals, the printing reservatiion information including a name
of the desired printing information, a printing medium type
indicating a type of medium for printing, [[and]] a number of
prints, and the print medium selected by the user, and (iii)
30 stores the received printing reservation information and the
acquired identification information in the printing reservation
information storage device, in association with the received
printing reservation information and the acquired identification
information;

35 a printer authenticating device which authenticates one of
the printers, when said one of the printers accesses the printing
information distributing apparatus through the network;

an identification information fetching device which fetches
identification information which indicates a user of the one of
40 the information terminals accessing the printing information
distribution apparatus and is transmitted from said one of the
printers through the network when the printer authenticating
device authenticates said one of the printers;

a printing information generating device which (i) retrieves
45 from the printing reservation information storage device the
stored printing reservation information based on the

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated January 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated November 2, 2006

identification information fetched by the identification
information fetching device, (ii) reads the printing reservation
information associated with the fetched identification
50 information from the printing reservation information storage
device, and (iii) generates printing information based on the
read printing reservation information; and

a printing information transmitting device which transmits,
through the network, the printing information generated by the
55 printing information generating device to said one of the
printers which accesses the printing information distribution
apparatus, and causes said one of the printers to print out the
desired printing information.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented). The printing information
distributing apparatus according to claim 60, wherein the
printing information transmitting device transmits charge
information indicating a printing charge for the printing
5 information to said one of the printers, and transmits the
printing information to said one of the printers when the
printing charge is paid for said one of the printers.

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated January 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated November 2, 2006

Claim 62 (Previously Presented). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 61, wherein each of the printers includes a money entry device which receives each of predetermined kinds of money, and said one of the printers prints
5 out the printing information transmitted by the printing information transmitting device, when money is entered into the money entry device to pay for the charge indicated by the charge information.